



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds National
Monument

1 Indian Well HQ
Tulelake, CA 96134

530-667-8100 phone
530-667-2737 fax

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

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For Immediate Release
Craig W. Dorman, 530- 667- 8101

Buck Poached at Lava Beds National Monument

The National Park Service is seeking the public's help in solving a case involving a mule deer poached from Lava Beds National Monument. The buck was discovered by park rangers on Friday, November 4th. It was killed just off the main park road in the north end of the Monument between Captain Jacks Stronghold and Canby Cross. The poaching occurred sometime between the morning of November 3rd and November 4th. The poachers, apparently seeking trophy antlers, removed the buck's head and left the body to rot.

The killing of wildlife within national parks is a federal offense and can be prosecuted as a felony under the Lacey Act (16 USC § 3371- 3378) and California Fish & Game Codes. Such crimes can carry heavy penalties including imprisonment, fines, seizure of equipment, and restitution for damage to or loss of property and resources.

"Thousands of visitors enjoy viewing mule deer in the Monument every year, and they are an important part of our ecosystem," said Superintendent Craig W. Dorman. "This kind of wasteful crime robs us all of our natural heritage."

Park rangers and state game wardens are cooperating in this investigation. A \$1000 reward is being offered by California Fish and Game's CalTIP program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) involved. Anonymous calls are accepted at 1- 888-DFG- CALTIP twenty- four hours a day, seven days a week.

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